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¶ By the King.

A Proclamation for reſtraint of exceſsiue Carriages, to the deſtruction of the High VVayes.

WHereas in the Reigne of Our moſt deare and Royall Father, King IAMES of bleſſed memory, and ſince Our acceſſe to the Crowne, ſeuerall Proclamations haue beene publiſhed for the reſtraint of exceſſiue Carriages by common Carriers or others, to the deſtruction of the High Waies of this Realme; and yet we finde by dayly experience, thoſe great abuſes are ſtill continued and increaſed; whereby if timely remedy be not prouided, thoſe publike Nuſances are like to hinder much the generall commerce of Our people, and become vnrepaireable, without exceſſiue charge and burthen to the Country. We therefore, by the aduice of the Lords and others of Our Priuie Councell, doe hereby ſtraightly charge and command, that from henceforth no common Carrier, nor other perſon whatſoeuer, vpon the common High Wayes doe goe or trauaile with any Wagon, Weyne, Cart, or Carriage, whereon is or ſhall be laden at once aboue twenty hundred weight; Nor that for the draught or carrying thereof, there be vſed aboue fiue horſes, or aboue foure Oxen and two horſes, or aboue ſixe Oxen without horſes at any one time, to the end that by theſe meanes the occaſion of ſuch exceſſiue carriages may be preuented. All which we do ſtraightly charge and command to be duely obſerued, vpon paine of Our heauy indignation, and ſuch other penalties and puniſhments, as by the Lawes or Statutes of this Our Realme, or otherwiſe, may be inflicted vpon the Offenders therein.

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And becauſe ſuch extraordinary Carriages as of late yeares haue beene vſed, haue heretofore by the opinion of Our Iudges beene held to be generall Nuſances, and therefore the ſame ought by the Law to be ſeuerely puniſhed, as that wherein the publike hath an intereſt: We doe ſtraightly charge and command all Our Iudges and Iuſtices, that in their ſeuerall places they doe carefully and diligently enquire of all theſe Offences; and as much as in them lieth, doe puniſh the Offendors.

And Wee doe hereby admoniſh, and ſtraightly charge and command all thoſe whom it may concerne, that they be carefull from time to time to repaire and maintaine the high waies, Bridges, and Cauſeys throughout this Our Realme, according to Our Lawes and Statutes in that behalfe, as they tender Our pleaſure, and will anſwere the contrary at their perils.

And becauſe there may be no pretence for any to excuſe themſelues, Wee ſtraightly require and charge, that Information from time to time be giuen to Our Attorney generall, of obſtinate and notorious Offendors againſt this Our Royall command, which ſo much importeth the common good and eaſe of Our people; To the end, that by a legall courſe they may bee proceeded with, and receiue ſuch puniſhment as their contempts and offences ſhall deſerue.

And laſtly, We doe hereby Will and require all Maiors, Sheriffes, Bailiffes, Iuſtices of peace, and all other Our Officers and Miniſters in all Our Counties and places whatſoeuer within this Our Realme, whom it may concerne, that they vſe their vttermoſt endeauour for diſcouery and puniſhment of all Offences and Offendors againſt this Our pleaſure and Royall commandment.

Giuen at the Court at Hampton-Court, the firſt day of Nouember, in the eleuenth yeere of Our Reigne.

God ſaue the King.

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